[30th January 1931

Alleged refusal of drinking water to political convicts in the Madras Penitentiary.

* 266 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Madras Penitentiary has made it a rule that political convicts who go on hunger strike as a protest against their ill-treatment should be refused drinking water; and

(b) if so, under what law and rule such action is taken?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"How is it, Sir, that the Government have no information with regard to clause (a)?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The question is—

'whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Madras Penitentiary has made it a rule that political convicts who go on hunger strike as a protest against their ill-treatment should be refused drinking water.'

The answer is definite : 'No, he has not made any such rule'."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"May I enquire, Sir, whether it is a fact that in the presence of Rao Bahadur Ranganatham Chettiyar, the Superintendent said that he would stop giving drinking water to convicts who go on hunger strike?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am not aware of any such incident."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"Will the hon. Member be pleased to call for a report from Rao Bahadur Ranganatham Chettiyar, a non-official visitor to jails?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"No."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"If he is willing to give one, will he call for it?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, the gentleman can send his report if he wants."

Alleged ill-health of Mr. M. Purushothama Sarma.

* 267 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the continued illness extending over eight months of Mr. Mangipudi Purushothama Sarma of West Godavari in the Vellore Jail and the measures, if any, taken by the jail authorities to restore him to health or release him on medical grounds; and

(b) whether any representations were made to the Government urging care and attention to the jail authorities to the above gentleman's illness; and, if so, by whom and to what effect?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 317.